

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-61 are currently pending. Claims 1-17 and 54-61 are withdrawn from consideration. In order to simplify the Listing of Claims, claims 1-17 and 54-61 are cancelled without prejudice to pursuing them in one or more divisional applications. Claims 18-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 396 335 ("EPO '335"). Claims 19 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 18, 20, 35, and 39 have been amended to specify that the drug is celecoxib. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the specification at page 7, line 23, and in Examples 1-6. Claims 19 and 38 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing them in one or more divisional applications.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 18-53 UNDER §102(B)

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 18-53 as anticipated by EPO '335.

Claim 18, as amended, is directed to a solid pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically and/or prophylactically effective amount of celecoxib and a dispersion-enhancing amount of an effervescent agent, wherein (a) the dosage form is adapted for swallowing without prior disintegration in water or in the mouth, and (b) the amount of the effervescent agent is not sufficient to substantially enhance disintegration of the dosage form in an aqueous medium.

Claim 35 is directed to a solid pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a therapeutically and/or prophylactically effective amount of celecoxib and a dispersion-enhancing amount of an effervescent agent, wherein the dosage form does not exceed about 800 mg in total weight.

Claims 18 and 35 are novel in view of EPO '335. Nowhere does EPO '335 describe generally any composition comprising celecoxib, nor does EPO '335 describe the solid pharmaceutical composition defined by claim 18, or the solid pharmaceutical dosage form defined by claim 35. Indeed, EPO '335 does not even mention celecoxib.

Thus, EPO '335 does not anticipate claim 18 (or claims 19-34, which depend from it) or claim 35 (or claims 36-53, which depend from it).

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 19 AND 38 UNDER §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 19 and 38 under §112, second paragraph. Claims 19 and 38 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot their rejection.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the present invention is now in condition for allowance. Early allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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